

Making ethnic boundaries in the society of religious renaissance: Islam and everyday ethnicity in post-Soviet Tatarstan

Yusupova G.

Kazan Federal University, 420008, Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, Russia

Abstract

© 2017 Informa UK Limited, trading as Taylor & Francis Group This article investigates the conflict between closely intertwined specific ethnic and universal religious practices that affect the formation and maintenance of ethnic group boundaries in the society of simultaneous Islamic and ethnic renaissances: contemporary post-Soviet Tatarstan. I argue that the negotiation of this conflict produces both reinforcement and erosion of the titular ethnic group boundaries. I pay special attention on ethnicity performance and ethnicity consumption practices. Thus, I conclude that practices of performing and consuming ethnicity serve as effective mechanism of boundary formation not just between various ethnic groups in the multi-ethnic republic but also inside the group itself.

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Keywords

ethnic boundaries, ethnic consumption, Everyday ethnicity, Islam, religious nationalism, Tatarstan